

“ Counting Our Gains”

Workshop on Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation

Geneva, 22-23 May 2014

Session 6

Assessing the geopolitical benefits of transboundary water cooperation

Geopolitical benefits

- The process of TWC brings benefits beyond the ability to pursue TWM
- Water as an entry point for building trust and
 - avoid conflict
 - advance on regional economic integration
 - advance on other policy fronts

Level of ambition?

Regional economic integration (type II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in trade of good and services• Cross-border investments• Regional job market	TWC only one factor. Quantitative assessment and monetary valuation may be possible through modelling, but may not be justified (cost and “convincing factor”)
Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoided cost of military conflict• Peace dividend (avoided military cost)	TWC only one factor. Qualitative assessment should be possible, need to look at political science methodologies.
Cooperation in other policy areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health• Education• Energy• Transport	TWC only one factor. Qualitative assessment should be possible. Quantitative assessment may be possible for some well-defined impacts.

Preliminary lessons learned

- In some settings, geopolitical benefits are very important
- Assessment of geopolitical benefits useful to create political consensus for TWC
- Assessing geopolitical benefits requires supportive institutional setting
- Need to involve politicians in the assessment

Questions for the session

- How useful is trying to assess this kind of benefits?
- Which geopolitical benefits have been assessed, and how (methodologies)?
- Which difficulties were encountered, and how were they overcome?
- What are the key lessons learned and recommendations for the assessment of similar benefits in other transboundary water cooperation settings?